

Michael F. Easley
Governor



State of North Carolina Office of the Governor

For Release: **IMMEDIATE**
Date: Nov. 14, 2005

Contact: Jill Warren Lucas
Phone: 919/733-5612

GOV. EASLEY ANNOUNCES 2005 STATE EMPLOYEES' AWARDS FOR EXCELLENCE

RALEIGH – Gov. Mike Easley today announced the recipients of the 2005 State Employees' Awards for Excellence. The award is one of the highest honors a state employee may receive.

"North Carolina's public servants are one of our state's most valuable resources," Easley said. "We are proud to honor these outstanding individuals who serve our citizens with such dedication and commitment."

Nine individuals and one team received the 2005 honors in the categories of human relations, safety and heroism, outstanding state government service and public service.

Human Relations

Barbara Ruth Mudd Orr, chief probation/parole officer in the Division of Community Correction, N.C. Department of Correction.

In her 26 years with the Department of Correction, Barbara Orr of Rockingham has established partnerships with judicial officials, law enforcement and other community agencies, using her human relations and interpersonal skills to carry out the mission of the Division of Community Corrections.

Orr was a contributor to the "Carolina's Most Wanted" television show on WBTV in Charlotte, which featured probation and parole violators and was instrumental in locating wanted persons in Richmond and Anson counties. She also worked with the sheriff's department to establish the Richmond County Crime Stoppers program. In addition, as organizer of the statewide Cognitive Behavior Intervention Program, she created a treatment program now recommended for a variety of offenders.

Sharon Hicks, housekeeper at the Western N.C. School for the Deaf in the N.C. Department of Health and Human Services.

Sharon Hicks of Vale maintains each building at the Western N.C. School for the Deaf for those who live and work there, and uses her own resources to provide flowers and decorations to make the facility more cheerful. Although she is a 10-month employee, she voluntarily comes in during the summer to plant and weed the flowerbeds she created. The garden not only adds color and beauty to the school's appearance, but also has nurtured creativity in the students.

--more--

Governor's Press Office
State Capitol, Raleigh, NC 27603-8001
(919) 733-5612 - Toll Free 1-800-662-7005
FAX (919) 733-5166